Cross Wind Trap Strips

Conservation Practice Job Sheet ***589C***

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) ***April 1997***

Landowner_____

Definition

A cross wind trap strip is an area of herbaceous vegetation, resistant to wind erosion, and grown in strips perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. As the name implies, cross wind trap strips entrap wind-borne sediment.

Purpose

Cross wind trap strips catch wind-borne sediment and other pollutants, such as nutrients and pesticides, from the eroded material before it reaches waterbodies or other sensitive areas.

Where used

Cross wind trap strips can be used along watercourses, drainage ditches, waterbodies, and other sensitive areas adjacent to agricultural fields susceptible to wind erosion or wind erosion damage.

Conservation management systems

Cross wind trap strips are recommended as part of a resource management system that addresses all natural resource concerns and the objectives of the landowner or operator. For this practice to be fully effective, crop rotation, nutrient and pest management, crop residue management, and other cropland practices should be considered.

Wildlife

Cross wind trap strips provide excellent opportunities to improve wildlife habitat by creating travel lanes that connect important habitat areas or infield escape cover. For wildlife habitat benefits, select native or other adapted species that provide wildlife food and cover.

Operation and maintenance

Trap strips must be inspected periodically. Weeds must be controlled to allow proper establishment and maintenance of the desirable species. Fertilizer will be applied as needed to maintain plant vigor. Mowing or grazing will be scheduled to accommodate wildlife species and to allow regrowth to planned height before the critical wind period or crop damage is expected to occur. Trapped material will be removed and vegetation reestablished as necessary to maintain adequate efficiency of the practice.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are illustrated on the job sketch sheet. Spacing of the erosion-susceptible strips is determined using the NRCS erosion prediction technology. Specifications included in this job sheet are based on guidance contained in the local Field Office Technical Guide.